

replace the existing one, enthusiasm led him further than was necessary, though, after all, he did not go beyond the provisions of the " marriage-books" which the French authorities hand to every bridegroom at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony—books beginning with a signed and stamped certificate of the union just celebrated and' continuing with enough blank forms to register the birth of *twelve* children — the number which Zola bestowed on his hero and heroine, Mathieu and Marianne.

Fruitfulness, said he, created the home, whence sprang the city; and from the idea of citizenship that of the father-land proceeded. There could be no nation unless there were fruitfulness, which became, then, a first national duty. The second was work, which Zola considered under various aspects in his next novel, " Travail." He held that every man ought to work for his own support and that of his family, and he also regarded work as a panacea for many ills. But he turned more particularly to the consideration of the circumstances under which work was done in the modern world, to the condition of the toilers generally, the great capital and labour problem. In that connection he was greatly influenced by the state of France at the time he wrote, the onward march of Socialism, the innumerable strikes, the complaints, the demands rising on all sides. He felt that matters could not remain as they

were. But  
though he was in the higher sense a great  
fighter he was  
the adversary of mere brute force; and  
dreading an armed  
collision between the classes, he tried to  
devise, to suggest,  
a pacific remedial evolution.

As he was unwilling to imprison himself or  
anybody else  
within the narrow and stringent bonds of  
certain forms of